

Message Text

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71

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 DPW-01 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /149 W

----- 107436

R 211125Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9096

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CDR USSAG NKP

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 4057

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, LA

SUBJECT: PHOUMI VONGVICHIT CONCILIATORY IN AP INTERVIEW

REF: A) FBIS/BANGKOK 201440Z MAY 74 (NOTAL)

B) VIENTIANE 3931

1. REF A CONTAINS RADIO PATHET LAO TRANSCRIPT OF AP CORRESPONDENT JENKINS' RECENT INTERVIEW WITH FOREIGN MINISTER PHOUMI VONGVICHIT. TRANSCRIPT ALSO CARRIED IN TODAY'S OFFICIAL LAO PRESSE. AS NOTED REF B, "INTERVIEW" CONSISTED OF PHOUMI'S READING PREPARED RESPONSES TO JENKINS' WRITTEN QUESTIONS.

2. PHOUMI'S REMARKS WERE CONCILIATORY, OR AT LEAST NOT CONTENTIOUS, AS HE SOFT-PEDALLED OR DODGED SENSITIVE QUESTIONS RELATED TO U.S. OR THAILAND. FOR EXAMPLE:

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--HE ACKNOWLEDGED LPF/GRUNK MID-MARCH

STATEMENT REGARDING SUPPORT FOR THAI LIBERATION MOVEMENT, BUT FUDGED BY SAYING IT MERELY MEANT THAT POLICIES OF TWO LAO PARTIES MAY HDLP SETTLE "THAILAND'S INTERNAL PROBLEMS;"

--PGNU HAS NOT DISCUSSED RECOGNITION OF GRUNK OR PRG;

--HE DEMURRED ON QUESTION OF WHAT IS DELAYING ACHIEVEMENT OF PEACE IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND COMBODIA, SAYING REPORTER SHOULD ASK PEOPLES OF THOSE TWO COUNTRIES;

-- HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT REPORTER ASK AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR ANSWER TO QUESTION WHY AMERICANS WERE EAGER TO SEE PGNU IN LAOS WHILE GIVING ASSISTANCE TO LON NOL AND THIEU REGIMES. WHEN ASKED WHETHER LPF "REGRETTE" BOMBING OF LAOS BY U.S., PHOUMI DID RESPOND WITH LENGTHY ACCOUNT OF DESTRUCTION AND SUFFERING CAUSED BY BOMBINGS AND STRAFINGS WHICH "EVERYONE HAS SAID WERE BARBAROUS AND INHUMANE."

3. QUESTION OF AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE WAS NOT MENTIONED IN TRANSCRIPT.
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974VIENTI04057
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740126-0825
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740529/aaaaazeo.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) FBIS/BANGKOK 201440Z MAY 74 (NOTA, L)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 APR 2002 by kellew0>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PHOUMI VONGVICHIT CONCILIATORY IN AP INTERVIEW
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, LA, (PHOUMI VONGVICHIT), (JENKINS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005